

ER 9-4708

25 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Report of the Commission on Government Security

1. It is recommended that the Director sign the attached letter to Mr. Loyd Wright.

2. The report of the Commission is now being reviewed in detail by the interested offices here, and a report will be given to the Director as soon as this review is completed. Very briefly, the Commission has recommended some far reaching changes in the Government security program, the core of which would be the establishment of an independent agency, the Central Security Office, which would "provide a continuous study of security needs and measures, conduct loyalty and security hearings, and furnish advisory decisions to heads of government departments and agencies." CIA and NSA employees would be exempted from the provisions of the civilian employees loyalty program recommended by the Commission. In other respects, however, there would probably be a need for the establishment of some direct relationships between the Agency and the proposed Central Security Office, although this point requires further study. The Commission also recommends, among other things, that the classification "Confidential" be abolished from government documents; that the same security standards be applied to employees of the Legislative and Executive Branches; that individuals outside the government be subject to penalties for the disclosure of information which they know, or had reasonable grounds to believe, was classified; that the AEC bring its security programs into line with other programs throughout the government; and that in general, the security safeguards throughout the government be tightened up.

3. We do not yet know the reactions of other agencies to the Commission report, although we will find out as soon as

possible. Bills have already been introduced to implement some of the Commission's findings, but it is doubtful that they will move anywhere in the near future. The White House has not given any detailed views as yet, although Mr. Hagerty has indicated to the press that the President "thinks it is a good report."

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Legislative Counsel

cc: DDCI

**Attachments**

**Ltr to Loyd Wright**

Report of the Commission on Government Security

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